(e) One of the super powers has expressed reservations on the effect of the AGNI launch on bilateral relations with Pakistan, China and USA.

Capacity lying idle at Mazagaon Dock

781. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost 56 per cent of the infrastructure for constructing submarine at the Mazagaon Dock has been lying idle in 1987-88;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor, stating the position in 1988-89 till date;

(c) whether it is also a fact that after the construction of the second HDW submarine at the Mazagaon Dock in 1990, Government propose to stop construction of submarines;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor, stating the manner in which the technology bought from HDW, the Indian Engineers construction experience and the infrastructure created is proposed to be utilised by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Only about 28.23 per cent in terms of value of the facilities created for construction of submarines was lying idle while capacity utilisation was 49.3 per cent.

(b) Part of the infrastructure is idle as there are no new orders beyond the original two numbers. The capacity utilisation in 1988-89 was 40 per cent and is expected to be 39 per cent during 1988-89.

(c) and (d) A proposal for the acquisition/construction of submarines for the Navy is under consideration of Government. It is intended to gainfully utilise the skills and experience gained by Mazagaon Dock Limited in the future construction of submarines as and when a final decision is taken in this regard.

Instructions regarding the role of Indian agents in purchase of defence equipment

782. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2133 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th March, 1989 and state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence have since issued supplementary instructions relating to the role of Indian agents in the purchase of defence equipment from foreign companies;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when they propose to issue those instructions?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) Instructions on the role of Indian agents of foreign suppliers were issued by the Ministry of Defence on 17th April, 1989. These are supplementary to the instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance, which are applicable to all civil purchases of imported stores. As per the Ministry of Defence's supplementary instructions, there will continue to be a ban on the involvement of Indian agents in the purchase of 'weapons' or 'weapon systems'. The purchase of all other imported stores shall be undertaken in conformity with the aforesaid instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance.

(c) Does not arise.